The Chair

Bob Acker: My thanks to all of our colleagues who joined me in giving presentations at the annual Montana Association of Language Teachers Convention, which was held in connection with the MEA-MFT Educators' Conference in Missoula Oct. 16-17. I greatly appreciate their dedication and their help in fostering good professional relationships with our colleagues in the high schools.

Arabic

Khaled Huthaily gave a three-hour presentation in CSD 320 Phonological Development and Phonetics, a course that is taught in the Department of Communicative Science and Disorders. He talked about the importance of comparative phonology for second language instructors and speech pathologists. He shared with the students the process and results of an action research that he conducted last year in the field of Arabic language instruction based on phonological awareness.

Classics

Hayden Ausland has this Fall been teaching a graduate seminar in Philosophy while on Faculty exchange at the University of Tromsø (UiT). During a break in September he also taught a week-long guest-seminar on Plato at the University of Bergen (UiB), as part of the Poetry and Philosophy project there (http://poetryandphilosophy.uib.no/). In October, he helped plan, coordinate, and guide a first visit of a delegation from UM's Department of Native American Studies (NAS) to UiT -- the kickoff event of a four-year collaboration between NAS and the Centre for Sámi Studies at UiT (http://www.sami.uit.no/indexen.html), an international effort being funded chiefly by the Norwegian government, with substantial contribution from UM's Academic Affairs and International Programs.

French

The Alliance Française de Missoula is presenting a wine-tasting event with well-known wine expert Alexandre Martin. The event includes an aroma-analysis session of the marvelous wine flavors and tastes from different varietal grapes and wine regions of the world. Hot and cold hors d’oeuvres will be offered to complement the presented wines. Festivities will begin at 7 p.m., Nov. 24, at Ruby’s Reserve Street Inn, 4825 North Reserve. Tickets ($25 per person/ $15 for students with ID) are available from Geneviève Giroux (241-1550), Michel Valentin (243-2301), or Jim Byrnes (370-0895). The event should provide an evening of discovery, education, and fun for all.

German

Bob Acker, together with Martina Baum-Acker and Andrea Kuenz, gave a presentation entitled "Sprechen Sie Oesterreichisch?" for MALT at the MEA-MFT Educators' Conference in Missoula on Oct. 17.
Italian

Evelina Badery, advisor to Il Circolo italiano – Italian Club, is pleased to announce that the Club has been selected as a recipient of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) University Club Grant in the amount of $ 800. Next spring the Club will show on campus a few Italian movies open to the general public. Also the student president of Il Circolo italiano, Francesca Di Stefano, was invited to join the NIAF Convention held on the 17th and 18th of October in Washington DC, with travel, hotel accommodations and Gala ticket provided by the NIAF. She met screen icon Gina Lollobrigida!

Japanese

Charles Exley gave a presentation entitled "Inspired Language Teaching with Technology" for MALT at the MEA-MFT Educators' Conference in Missoula on Oct. 17.

Japanese & Chinese

Judith Rabinovitch (Japanese) and Timothy Bradstock (Chinese), on October 17, 2008 presented a two paper panel at the MALT Conference held in Missoula. They discussed informal 'kanshi' poetry (poems in Chinese written by Japanese) as it was practiced during the 19th century. Judith spoke about a special variety of kanshi social poetry that was recorded on richly decorated strips of paper and presented at parties and similar celebrations. Tim discussed the unpublished kanshi collection of a late 19th century school principal named Inaga Nanpo (d. 1901), whose verse he and Judith have been studying and translating during the past year.

Spanish

Alicia Gignoux gave a presentation entitled "Using YouTube and Online Film in Class" for MALT at the MEA-MFT Educators' Conference in Missoula on Oct. 17. On Oct. 29 she gave a presentation about her on-line Spanish 101 course for the MCLL Faculty Forum.


Naomi Lapidus Shin presented “A Linguist’s Approach to Spanish in the United States” as a talk for MALT at the MEA-MFT conference in Missoula.